

Young Men's Institute

Board of Grand Directors

Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2021

Call to Order — Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Opening Prayer — The opening prayer was led by Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, Grand Chaplain, asking for God's blessings on all Brothers present, those Brothers who are ill and a return to some form of normalcy in the practicing of our faith.

Pledge of Allegiance — the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary, in place of Brother Bob Fiorito #613, Grand Marshal who was absent.

Roll Call — Brother Michael Dimech #613, GS, called the roll for all Grand Council Officers and District Deputy Grand Presidents as well as other Brothers in attendance. He found that the following Brothers were present:

Eugene Espinola #94, GD and DDGP

Jim Rohe #612, GD

Bill Avery #80, GD

Alex Schmitt #8, GD and DDGP

Paul Larson #32, GD

Tommy Figueira #573, GD and DDGP

Frank Hepburn #2, PGP, GD

Nick Franceschine #54, GP

Darrell Fonseca #99, GFVP

Steve Cresci #32, GSVP

Michael Amato #613, IPGP

Rev. Agnel De Heredia #32, GC

Michael Dimech #613, PGP, GS

Jack Albrecht #1, GT

Cosmo Amato #613, GIS and DDGP

Domenic Carinalli #54, GOS

Phil Fondale #137, DDGP

Alex Preciado #2, DDGP

Clement Gusman #573, DDGP

Tom Fourie, #32, PGP, Business Manager

Bob Bartoli #32, PGP, Assistant to the Business Manager

The following Brothers were marked as either excused or absent:

Bill McNeany #40, GD as excused

Bob Fiorito #613, GM as excused

Frank DiMaggio #59, PGP, DDGP as excused

Paul Flores #100, DDGP as absent

Steve Ortiz #80, DDGP as absent

Stephen May #900, DDGP as absent

Scott Vogelgesang #612, DDGP as absent

Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Grand Directors July 17, 2021 Meeting –

Chairman of the Board, Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the July 17, 2021 Board of Grand Directors meeting. Brother Frank Hepburn #2, PGP and Grand Director made the motion to accept the minutes of July 17, 2021 and it was seconded by Brother Jim Rohe #612, Grand Director. The Board voted to unanimously to accept the minutes from July 17, 2021.

Communications - **Brother Michael Dimech #613, Past Grand President, Grand Secretary reported on an e-mail he received from Brother Domenic Carinalli that he would not be able to attend the meeting as he would be picking grapes in the vineyard. Br. Dimech also received an e-mail from Brother Frank DiMaggio #59, PGP and DDGP that he could not attend the meeting as his Council was having an in-person get together for the first time on this day.**

Brother Tom Fourie #32, Past Grand President and Business Manager referred all Officers to the e-mail he had sent previously with communications received and distributed from the Grand Council Office. It included the following:

- 1. Council Bulletins received:**
 - a. American Council #8: September**
 - b. South San Francisco Council #32: August and September**
 - c. Sadoc Council #59: September**
 - d. Francis Council #573: September**
 - e. St. John Bosco Council #613: August and September/October**
- 2. Letter of thanks to Brother and Mrs. Tony Savant #60 for hosting the dinner visit to Madera Council #60 by Grand Officers.**
- 3. Cover letter to Councils with the copies of Council tax filings.**
- 4. Copy of obituary of Keith Woodcock – investor.**
- 5. Two copies of the Oakland Diocese “Catholic Voice” magazine.**
- 6. One copy of the Sacramento Diocese “Catholic Herald” magazine.**
- 7. Invitation from the Archdiocese of San Francisco to the October 1-5, 2021 Cathedral Sacred Arts Treasury & History Exhibit 2021.**
- 8. From Brother Bob Crowe #612 – articles on changes at Seton Catholic High School in Richmond, Indiana concerning principal and staff.**
- 9. Grand President’s notes from the June 26, 2021 Officers meeting concerning the status of Councils.**

Reports of the Grand Treasurer – Brother Jack Albrecht #32, Grand Treasurer, referred all the officers to the reports dated August 24, 2021 that had been e-mailed the week prior to this meeting. He assumed that all Officers had received it and had an opportunity to review the report. He asked if there were any questions, and hearing none, asked that a vote to accept the report be taken. Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director asked for a motion to accept the report as presented. Brother Jim Rohe #612, Grand Director, made the motion to accept and Brother Paul Larson #32, Grand Director, seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously by the Board of Grand Directors.

Brother Albrecht reported on the efforts that had been made since the last Board Meeting in finding a new investor for Grand Council funds given the death of Keith Woodcock. He along with Brother Tom Fourie #32, PGP and Business Manager had met with two individuals, Mr. Pat Carroll and Mr. Scott Chapman. Mr. Carroll was an investor with Worldwide Equities Inc. and Mr. Chapman, who owned his own investment company. Following the two interviews, Brothers Albrecht and Fourie reviewed their notes and impressions. Brother Fourie was most impressed with Brother Chapman, given that he had written a book on his field, been a teacher at the college level and presented a most reasonable and

comprehensive approach to the YMI current investments. His recommendation would be to go with Mr. Chapman....Brother Albrecht agreed.

Brother Alex Schmitt #8, Grand Director made a motion to move our investments to the company of Mr. Scott Chapman. Brother Tommy Figueira #573, Grand Director, second the motion. The Grand Directors voted unanimously to accept the motion.

Brother Albrecht gave a summary report of our reserves and all was well.

ports of the Grand Directors Committees for the year 2021-2022 – Brother Bill Avery #80, Grand Director, asked for the Grand Directors to report on their committee work since the last Board meeting.

- a. Charters/Archives: Brothers Paul Larson #32, Bill Avery #80 and Eugene Espinola #94 – there was nothing to report at this time.
- b. Finance: Brothers Paul Larson #32, Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President, and Alex Schmitt #8 – referred their report to the Grand Treasurer's report. All bills had been paid.
- c. Long Range Planning: Brothers Alex Schmitt #8, Tommy Figueira #573, Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President, and Bill McNeany #40 – will reach out with members going forward.
- d. Council Activities: Brothers Jim Rohe #612, Eugene Espinola #94 and Bill Avery #80 – no activities had been reported at this time.
- e. Insurance: Brother Paul Larson #32 – the Liability Insurance for this current YMI year has been paid in full.
- f. Fund Raising: Brothers Bill Avery #80 and Eugene Espinola #94 – nothing to report at this time.
- g. Supplies: Brothers Alex Schmitt #8 and Jim Rohe #612 – nothing to report at this time, there is still \$6000 worth of items in our inventory.
- h. Grand Council Planning Committee: Brother and Mrs. Paul Larson #32 – there is not much we can do at this time for June 2022.

Grand President's Report – Grand President Nick Franceschine #54 had previously sent out an e-mail covering his activities since the July Board Meeting. He reviewed his activities:

- a. Organized a briefing meeting with the National Office staff to update myself and the Grand Vice Presidents on current issues and contact information of the various Councils.
- b. Reviewed the Grand First Vice President's proposed essay questions for the Pro Patria raffle.

- c. Completed the Grand President's Program, forwarded it to our Business Manager for distribution to Officers, Directors, District Deputies and committee chairs.
- d. Sent an e-mail to Board members, with suggested topics to consider at the July Board meeting.
- e. Attended the July Board meeting, swore in the new District Deputies.
- f. Worked with Brs. Billy Avery and Gene Espinola to obtain information from Council #100 (Bakersfield), hopefully to reinstate that Council.
- g. Attended Education Foundation meeting of July 27, 2021 and will be present at their next meeting on October 26, 2021 when a decision on Matching Funds for this year will be decided.
- h. Prepared Grand President's Message for the YMI Journal.
- i. Sent letters to 15 new YMI members, welcoming them to the Order.
- j. Organized official visit to Frances Council #573, for January 2022.
- k. Worked with Br. Mike Sanzeri on a possible bowling tournament for April 2022.
- l. Attended Santa Rosa Council #40's dinner meeting and car show on August 3, 2021.
- m. Sent letter to Br. Jim Mullen about Council #13, Vallejo.
- n. Attended BBQ with Council #2, San Jose, on September 8, 2021.
- o. Many contacts with different Brothers have been made.
- p. Attended the Seminarian Foundation Meeting on September 2, 2021 and will be present for their next meeting on November 4, 2021.

Grand First Vice President's Report – Brother Darrell Fonseca #99, Grand First Vice President, briefly reviewed his work on the 2021-2022 Pro Patria Essay Contest and Raffle. He is planning to increase some student essay prizes, yet he will keep the wonderfully successful ticket sales approach begun by IPGP Michael Amato. Hopefully all YMI Brothers will buy their tickets. He is currently preparing the cover letters for the Essay Contest/Raffle which will be going out soon to all YMI Brothers and Friends, the YLI, and YMI Councils.

Grand Second Vice President's Report – Brother Steve Cresci #32, Grand Second Vice President, sent an e-mail to all officers outlining his activities since the last Board meeting.

June 25 – Attended Zoom meeting led by Grand President Nick Franceschine #54 on the status of each Council.

July 8 – Attended Council #32’s Business Meeting in person.

July 17 – Attended Zoom Board Meeting.

July 24 – Organized and hosted for Council #32 in SSF a social event Bocce Ball Picnic attended by members, friends, and family of Council #32 and Council #613 members.

August 22 – Volunteered with South San Francisco Council #32 at their Blood Drive along with the Native Daughters of the Golden West at All Souls Parish in South San Francisco.

August 25 – Attended Council #54’s steak BBQ Dinner in Sebastopol.

September 16 – Attended in person the South San Francisco Council #32’s meeting and dinner.

Brother Cresci spoke on the next Red and White Mass in March 2022. Dates were discussed and it would appear that March 12, 2022 would be the best date. He hopes to live stream the Mass at 4:00 p.m. with dinner to follow...all taking place at All Souls Parish in South San Francisco.

Grand Secretary’s Report/Business Manager’s Report

The Grand Secretary highlighted the following for his report:

- a. Brother Dimech had requested several updates from our Webmaster to our YMI Website to include:**
 - i. Council newsletters received from the Business Manager have been uploaded onto the YMI Website.**
 - ii. Other Council newsletters that have been received by me have been placed on the Website.**
 - iii. Fr. Agnel’s recent letter that he sent earlier this week has also been placed on the Website and I recommend that our Brothers read his letter.**
 - iv. I also requested that Council #613’s Bocce Ball flyer be placed on the Website.**
 - v. I attended Council #32’s July Business meeting and Council #613’s September Business meeting.**
 - vi. I also attended the recent Seminarian meeting.**
 - vii. I am also working on Council #613’s Bocce Ball Tournament that is scheduled for October 16, 2021.**
 - viii. I will also be updating the members of the Seminarian Board in the next few days.**

The Business Manager reviewed the work of the Grand Council Office since July 17, 2021 that was made available on the pre-sent e-mail.

- a. Worked with Chairman Bob Bartoli #32, PGP on the Audit Committee forms.
- b. Prepare July and August bills for the Grand Treasurer.
- c. Attend funeral Mass for Brother Chris Ramos #32 – last living charter member of South San Francisco Council #32.
- d. Processed Council assessment payments.
- e. Prepared and published the Institute Journal for Summer/Fall 2021 issue.
- f. Processed death benefit requests including that of PGP Carl Franke.
- g. Attended and participated in both YMI Education Foundation and Seminary Education Foundation meetings.
- h. Prepared paperwork etc. for August 3, 2021 meeting with Madera Council #60 as well as attended the meeting.
- i. Sent July 18, 2021 Board Meeting minutes to Grand Council Officers.
- j. File IRS and Franchise Tax forms for Councils – send copies of filing to Councils.
- k. Attended August and September in-person Council #32's business meetings.
- l. Participated with the Grand Treasurer in the interview process for a new financial investor.
- m. Hosted our youngest daughter, husband (YMI) and grandchildren from New Jersey for one week.
- n. Prepare pin order for St. John Bosco Council #613.
- o. Frequent trips to the Post Office Box with subsequent drop-offs at Br. Albrecht and Br Bartoli's home mailboxes.
- p. Attend Sebastopol Council #54's BBQ in the vineyard.
- q. Worked on justification of Bakersfield council #100's updated reports.
- r. Ordered bulk mailing envelopes for Essay/Raffle mailing.
- s. Sent our agenda for September 18, 2021 Board Meeting.
- t. Sent our letter from the Grand Chaplain to all YMI Brothers.

Again, it has been a busy time at the Grand Council Office, along with phone calls and e-mails to address.

Report of Grand Directors to Grand Council Committees – In accordance with the Grand Council By-Laws a member of the Grand Council Board of Directors has been assigned to each of the Grand Council Committees that are delineated in the Grand President's Program for 2021-2022. In the program, each committee chairman as chosen by the Grand President and is listed along with the goals and objectives of each committee.

Audit Committee – Brother Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President: there was nothing to report by Br. Frank, however, Br. Bartoli added that the audit committee had visited Madera Council #60. Br. Hepburn welcomes an audit of San Jose Council #2.

Budget Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, District Deputy Grand President: the Committee will meet in January or February, with Brother Jack needing new items for next year's budget.

Reserve Committee – Br. Paul Larson #32: Brother Albrecht had previously reported on the status of the reserve funds.

Coordinating Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80: nothing to report at this time.

Ceremonials Committee – Br. Jim Rohe #612: nothing to report at this time.

Institute Journal Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80: the deadline for the next Journal is October 31, 2021.

Laws & Revisions Committee – Br. Eugene Espinola #94: nothing to report at this time.

Man and Council of the Year Committee – Br. Bill McNeany #40: nothing to report at this time.

Membership Committee – Br. Tommy Figueira #573: no report at this time.

Organization Committee – Br. Alex Schmitt #8, District Deputy Grand President: no specific report except to discuss struggling Councils and try to keep YMI growing.

Resolutions Committee – Br. Bill Avery #80: grow the YMI.

State of the Institute Committee – Br. Frank Hepburn #2, Past Grand President: Chairman Brother Mike Amato spoke to the status of the one concept from last year that has not yet been completed (see Unfinished Business)

Workshop Committee – All Grand Directors: nothing to report until we know if we will have a convention next year.

Chairmen of the Sports Group of Committees were announced as follows:

Bowling – Brother Michael Sanzeri #59 - Br. Franceschine reported that a current possible date would be April 24, 2021. The Bowling Alley has yet to confirm the date.

Bocce – Brother Michael Dimech #613 – still planned for October 16, 2021, Orange Ave. Park in South San Francisco, need more teams to sign up.

Golf – Brother Bob Fiorito #613 - working on a date in May 2022 at Bennett Valley in the Santa Rosa area.

Unfinished Business –

The Grand Council Office continues to attempt to work with Bakersfield Council #100. Since December of 2020 they have been suspended. Although they paid their assessment charge up until June 30, 2021, they have now provided the Grand Council Office with an updated membership list (95% correct) and several back Semi Annual Reports (page 1) indicating their financial situation. However, there is a question on the source of their funding and two members need to have updated information turned in. Work and contacts with the Grand President, Brothers Espinola and Fonseca have yielded some good results. We are almost there. They still owe for one Assessment and need to clarify their bank accounts. Father Agnel suggested writing them a letter stating the progress that has been made is almost sufficient to lift the provisional suspension come January 1, 2022, provided the few outstanding issues are resolved. The Grand Secretary will send this letter. A motion was made by Grand Director Alex Schmitt #8 and seconded by Grand Director Frank Hepburn #2, PGP to have the Grand Secretary send a letter to Council #100 informing them of what steps still need to be taken in order to lift their suspension on January 1, 2022, namely, completion of a successful audit of Council #100 and receipt of the July 1, 2021 and October 1, 2021 assessments. The motion passed unanimously.

Grand Secretary, Brother Michael Dimech #613 has been unsuccessful in contacting Br. Frank Lima #44, our listed Attorney, on working through the proposal to change the by-laws concerning age of membership, etc. All of this preliminary work was done during the past YMI year, but until there is a legal review, it has stalled. Brother Dimech continues to work to try to find other attorneys who could help the Grand Council in this matter.

New Business – Future dates for the Board of Grand Directors Meetings have been tentatively set for November 13, 2021, January 22, 2022, March 19, 2022, May 14, 2022 and June 19, 2022 (Convention).

Immediate Past Grand President's Report – Brother Michael Amato #613, Immediate Past Grand President did not have a report at this time due to the length of the meeting.

Grand Chaplain's Report – Father Agnel spoke about some additional ideas for the Red and White Mass. He suggested having the chaplains for each Council mentioned during the Mass or even better have them come to the Mass. He also suggested having local seminarians attend the Mass. Everyone had received his letter that was sent to the entire YMI membership and was on the Website.

Good of the Order –

Brother Bartoli invited all to the Council #32's Christmas Party on December 4, 2021 at the Basque Cultural Center and Council #613 reminded everyone of the Italian Heritage Parade on October 10, 2021...YMI will be participating.

Closing Prayer – Rev. Agnel De Heredia, #32, Grand Chaplain

Adjournment – 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Br. Michael Dimech, #613, GS, PGP

Br. Thomas Fowrie #32, PGP, Business Manager